

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02869 251245Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 DHA-02 OMB-01 AID-05
SCS-03 SCA-01 CU-02 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W
-----251254Z 100965 /46

O 251208Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 536

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2869

FOLLOWING MESSAGE REC KARACHI ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO LAHORE
25TH MAR REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 1414

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN KARACHI

1. THERE WERE DISTURBANCES IN KARACHI MARCH 24 IN MALIR AND
DRIGH COLONY. IN THE LATTER AREA, NEAR THE DRIGH ROAD BRIDGE,
THERE WERE ATTEMPTS TO OBSTRUCT RAILROAD TRAFFIC AND CASES
OF ARSON INCLUDING THE BURNING OF A PIA STAFF BUS. BEGINNING AT
2200 HOURS DRIGH COLONY WAS ADDED TO THE AREAS UNDER CURFEW.

2. THE CURFEW IN KARACHI WAS LIFTED FROM 0630 TO 0930 MARCH 25,
AND WILL BE LIFTED FROM 1300 TO 1500 TO PERMIT ATTENDANCE AT
PRAYERS. THE PNA HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO TAKE OUT A PROCESSION
FOLLOWING PRAYERS IN THE BURNS ROAD AREA. OUR BEST GUESS IS
THAT THEY WILL IN FACT HOLD A RALLY BUT NOT STAGE A PROCESS-
ION, PREFERRING TO SAVE THEIR ENERGIES FOR MARCH 26.

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3. DISTRUBANCES OCCURRED IN HYDERABAD ALSO ON MARCH 24.
SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES IN THAT CITY HAVE NOW BEEN ASSIGNED
TO THE ARMY, AS IN KARACHI.

4. THE KARACHI ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE PNA HAS CALLED FOR THE
OBSERVANCE OF A COMPLETE HARTAL IN KARACHI MARCH 26. IT WILL BE

OUR FOURTH HARTAL AND IS EXPECTED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. FOR THE FIRST TIME THE PNA CALL SPECIFIES THAT PRIVATE AS WELL AS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SHOULD BE HALTED. THIS MAY SET THE STAGE FOR A MORE SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO STOP PRIVATE CARS FROM MOVING THAN WAS ATTEMPTED IN THE PREVIOUS HARTALS, AND HENCE INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF CLASHES WITH THE SECURITY FORCES WHO PRESUMABLY WILL MAKE STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO KEEP MAIN ARTERIES SUCH AS DRIGH ROAD AND THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY OPEN. CHIEF MINISTER JATOI HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT INFORMING THE PUBLIC THAT THE ARMY AND POLICE ARE UNDER ORDERS TO SHOOT ON SIGHT PERSONS ATTEMPTING ARSON, LOOTING, SABOTAGE, DISRUPTION OF THE MEANS OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND THE CAUSING OF DAMAGE TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY.

5. WE ARE ADVISING AMERICANS TO REMAIN AT HOME OR IN THEIR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOODS MARCH 26. THE SCHOOL, WHICH HAD INTENDED TO FUNCTION THAT DAY TO MAKE UP SOME OF THE TIME LOST IN RECENT WEEKS, WILL BE CLOSED.
MOORE UNQUOTE BYROADE

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